

I CLAIM:

1. A glass vial comprising:

a generally tubular glass container having a closed bottom end and an open top end, said bottom end having a ceramic paint bonded thereon and a data matrix code etched into said bottom end wherein said matrix may be read by an optical reading machine.

2. A process of forming a labeled glass vial comprising the steps of:

providing a generally tubular glass container having a closed bottom end and an open top end;

applying ceramic paint to the bottom end of said tubular container;

firing at least said bottom end of said tubular container so as to bond the paint to said bottom end; and

laser etching a data matrix code into said fired bottom end wherein said data matrix code may be read by an optical reading machine.